- Rehabilitation of Sewer Lines (73 Kms.) and improvements in efficiencies of existing Sewage Treatment Plants in Haryana.
- Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for projects to be taken up under future YAP Phase-III

In addition to the above, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also taken up sewerage and sewage treatment works along with non-sewerage works in large-scale out of its own plan funds.

Conversion of Vehicles into CNG Vehicles

†1115. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the unprecedented success of C.N.G. in Delhi, the Supreme court has directed the concerned States to convert their vehicles into CNG vehicles in order to check the pollution in the NCR area; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order of May 2002 has directed that the cities, which are equally or more polluted than Delhi, may prepare a scheme for compulsory switch over to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)/Lequefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as automotive fuel. Accordingly, four cities namely, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Kanpur & Pune were identified for switch over to CNG/LPG. For improvement in the ambient air quality, the concerned States have formulated the Action Plans, which are regularly monitored. These Action Plans include use of cleaner automotive fuels like CNG/LPG.

Import free regime for FPI

1116. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 4,60,000 crores food processing industry in the country is pitching for a time bound import free regime for itself, much on the lines of what is now experienced by IT Industry.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether CEOs from 44 food processing companies have met PM in the month of September, 2005 and pointed out that this sector come up with a draft strategy outlining an on gound action plan that would radically transform rural economy through farm and allied growth;

(c) if so, whether Government have approved their proposal; and

(d) if so, by what time an action plan to achieve these objectives will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) There is a substantial scope for growth of food processing industries in the country. In order to discuss the problems of food processing industries the CEOs/representation of 32 food processing companies and an interactive meeting with the Prime Minister of 27th September, 2005. In the course of meeting, President CII made a detailed presentation. Important points made in the presentation include increased market connectivity/productivity through amendment in the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act, promotion of R&D, product/process development, finalization of Integrated Food Law, international branding of Indian processed food, creation of globally benchmarked infrastructure, establishment of 20 strategic hubs for export competitiveness, increased praticipation in Codex Standard setting process, high taxation etc. Several measures have already been initiated by the Government for giving boost to growth of food processing industries, Fruits & Vegetable products have been exempted from payment of excise duty. Recently, in 2004-05 Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% to 8%. Exise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Union Budget for 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg. on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per Kg. on Vanaspati abolished and customs duty on refegerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. A National Horticulture Mission has been launched on 1st April 2005 to ensure an end-to-end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing. For integration of food laws, Food Safety & Standards Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 25.8.2005.